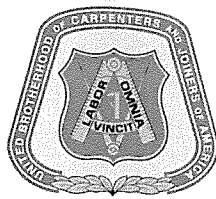
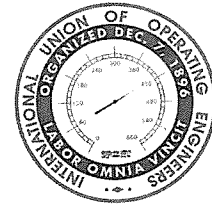




**Laborers' International
Union of North America**



**United Brotherhood of
Carpenters & Joiners
of America**



**International Union of
Operating Engineers**

June 29, 2006

HR. 4761: OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF DRILLING

Our three building trades unions urge your support for HR. 4761 when the House considers it later today. The bill will essentially lift the current moratorium against off-shore drilling by establishing a new set of drilling criteria which will go a long way in addressing America's energy needs – particularly in respect to natural gas supply. U.S. manufacturing needs the potential energy which a fully implemented HR. 4761 can supply, to stay competitive in the global economy. As a result, existing U.S. jobs are protected and new jobs can be created to help strengthen our economy.

From a building trades perspective, there is another critically important reason to support this bill. For years, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) has been interpreted to allow foreign companies to utilize foreign workers to build and service these oil and gas rigs and platforms without having to consider American workers for these jobs. Led by Resources Committee Chairman Pombo and Representative Abercrombie, there is a provision in the Manager's amendment which modifies the existing OCSLA language to require that American workers be given initial consideration on these large projects before foreign workers are hired. We in the trades have many of the skilled workers who are potentially ready, willing and able to perform these construction and service jobs to extract American resources for American industry.

It is important to modify our current law to develop additional U.S. energy supplies. It is equally important to allow American workers a realistic opportunity to perform this construction and service work. HR. 4761 accomplishes both of these objectives.

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